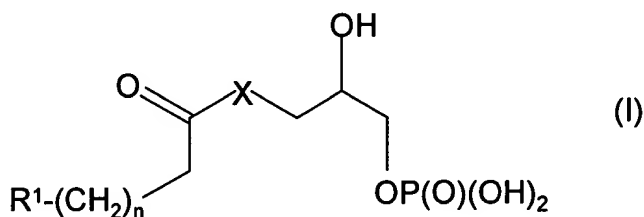


Abstract

Osteoblast-specific mitogens and drugs containing such compounds can be used for treating metabolic bone diseases. Novel compounds for this treatment include lysophosphatidylc acid derivatives selected from the group consisting of compounds of formula:



wherein

R^1 = alkenyl or alkynyl having from 6 to 24 carbon atoms;

n = 0 - 12;

X = oxygen or NH;

the compounds (all-cis-5,8,11, 14)-eicosatetraenoic acid 2-hydroxy-3-phosphonooxypropyl ester; cis-9, cis-12-octadecadienoic acid 2-hydroxy-3-phosphonooxypropyl ester; (all-cis-9,12,15)-octadecatrienoic acid 2-hydroxy-3-phosphonooxypropyl ester; cis-9-octadecenoic acid 2-hydroxy-3-phosphonooxypropyl ester; and erucic acid 2-hydroxy-3-phosphonooxypropylester being excluded, and the physiologically tolerable salts, esters, optically active forms, and racemates of said compounds, and derivatives of said compounds, salts, esters, optically active forms and racemates which can be metabolized *in vivo* to yield the corresponding compound of formula (I).